

# THE ALMA RECORD.

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ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, AFTERNOON, MAY 18, 1916

WHOLE NUMBERS 1939

## TO RELIEVE THE HOUSE SHORTAGE

Citizens Hold Meeting in City Hall Wednesday Night.

B. G. APPLEBY GIVES POINTERS

Committee Appointed to Lay Plans for Building and Selling Association

Through the efforts of the Board of Trade of this city the business men were brought to a realization of the importance of supplying a goodly number of houses in the city for the accommodation of the rapidly increasing population. During the last two years the population of the city has practically doubled. During this time there has probably been erected about fifty new houses when to keep in pace with the increase there should have been about two hundred and fifty.

The Republic Motor Truck company are becoming seriously handicapped in the need of housing conditions for their employees.

At present in many houses in the city there are several families living in one large house, and in some places the congestion is a menace to the public health.

Some property owners are holding their lots and buildings at fabulous prices, that prevent the working man from becoming a permanent fixture in the city. As the majority of the people coming to the city are men of the trades, and while they make the best class of citizens, their salaries are moderate, and they cannot afford to pay the full purchase price, or the large payments now being demanded by the property owners.

Then there is the laboring class, whose salaries allow them the purchase of slightly cheaper houses, and as this class of labor is in demand in all cities, when a laborer cannot get a decent housing accommodations he will move.

It is useless to talk of bringing other industries to the city till our present population is taken care of.

At the Wednesday night meeting of the business men, under the auspices of the Board of Trade, Chairman Brown called upon Jotham Allen, manager of the Michigan Sugar company's plant in this city, for a few words of the reason for the meeting and the demand placed upon the city. Mr. Allen pointed out in his clever way the need of more houses in the city and the results in their case if the business men responded or failed to respond.

The chairman next called upon Chas. Rhodes, secretary of the Republic Motor Truck company, to give a few facts regarding the growth and prospects of the company. Mr. Rhodes in a few words pointed out to the assembly that the truck company plant in this city was a permanent institution. Reviewing the growth of the company in the past three years, starting with a force of fifty men, and doing \$60,000 worth of business in the first year to a force of 600 men and so far during the first five months of this year doing over two and one-half millions of dollars worth of business, made the point clearer than any other method he could have employed. Mr. Rhodes also stated that many of the parts that are now being imported into the city could be made here, and companies were anxious to locate plants here for the manufacture of the smaller truck parts. He mentioned the large buildings now being erected, and great demand throughout the country for a half-ton truck, and the small truck the Republic people are soon going to put on the market to supply this demand. He made clear that if the town wanted to keep this plant here, something had to be done to house its employees.

Mr. B. G. Appleby, a prominent Saginaw business man, was next introduced. Mr. Appleby is a member of the Saginaw Board of Trade and has for the past thirteen years been back of the majority of the building enterprises in that city. His talk on his viewpoint of the crying need of houses in the city, ran parallel with the two former speakers. He suggested the organization of a Merchants' Building and Selling association. The work of the association to be to purchase lots and put up houses and sell them on easy payments. His plan seemed simple, and reasonable and feasible. It is plain that stock in such a company would bring reasonable returns, and the fact of it being a public welfare company, conducted by public people, would eliminate the desire to "hog" the situation as would be more likely in the case of private companies and speculators. At the close of Mr. Appleby's talk, Attorney Greene made the motion that the chairman appoint a committee of five men to retire and select a committee of twelve prominent business men for the purpose of investigating the feasibility of Mr. Appleby's plan to work in Alma and to lay plans for the organization of a permanent corporation to buy, build and sell property in the city.

The chairman appointed Mr. Greene, Henry Soule, Chas. Rhodes, Carl

## NOBODY HURT

Old Dobbin Grasps Last Opportunity and Runs the 2:40

E. J. Hubbard of the plumbing firm of Brown & Hubbard was peacefully driving the little "Henry" with a load of tin traps along the road about two miles south of Elwell, Monday afternoon, when an innocent looking old gray mare loomed up over the horizon being driven by an elderly country woman and young girl, in an open buggy. Old Dobbin showed no signs of shying till the tin wagon pulled up along the side of the road to allow the horse drawn vehicle to pass, when suddenly the old boss was inspired with a vicious snort, raised her tail to the skies and started on the record pace of her career. The vehicle was overturned throwing the occupants in a ditch, and the horse and badly dilapidated buggy were stopped a half mile further up the road.

The women after recovering from the fright of the shaking up, brushed off the dust and with the help of Hubbard the men who caught the horse, patched up the broken vehicle and again fettered poor old Dobbin in the remains of the harness and resumed their journey.

Neither of the women were hurt in the slightest, the horse never shied before, and E. J. lays it to the fact that it was the first time the old horse ever seen a first class tin wagon in the vicinity of Elwell.

## PUBLIC SCHOOL EXHIBIT

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 26

Rooms in All Three Schools and High School Gym. Will Show Work of Pupils

The public is cordially invited to attend the annual school exhibit to be held in each of the three school buildings on Friday afternoon of May 26. In the grades, the pupils' work will be on display in each of the rooms, in the high school the gymnasium will be used for this purpose. This will give parents the opportunity of not only seeing the work which their children have done during the school year but of interviewing the instructors which will result in a better acquaintanceship. It will be very gratifying to the teachers, principals and superintendent to meet all those directly or indirectly interested in the welfare of our schools at the exhibit. Last year about 1000 persons viewed the exhibit. It is hoped that a greater number will be present this year. Visits by parents at the schools where their children attend should result in a truer estimate of the teachers' work and perhaps a better appreciation of their efforts. Light refreshments will be served at each of the buildings.

## I. O. O. F. VISIT ELWELL

On Tuesday, evening, May 9th, about thirty members of Alma lodge I. O. O. F., visited Elwell lodge and conferred the first degree on a class of seven candidates, the second degree conferred by Riverdale lodge. A bountiful supper was served by the Rebekahs of Elwell and Riverdale. On Friday night, May 12th, Alma lodge visited St. Louis lodge, and again conferred the first degree. Last Monday night the third degree was given in our own lodge. Next Monday night officers will be nominated for the ensuing term, the first meeting night in June being the regular night for election. All brothers are requested to be present at both these meetings.

## FOURTH OF JULY

At a meeting of the Boosters Club last Thursday night the preliminary for the Fourth of July celebration was started, arrangements are being made for a rouser, one that will be in keeping with Alma and its business men. The committee on entertainment are now at work figuring some new attraction which will make it a blinger.

Washburn and H. C. Moore to retire and select a committee for the duty above mentioned. The committee returned with the report that they had selected the following men, with the idea that they represented all the different vocations in the city and were men who could devote more or less time to the working out of the plan in view. The temporary committee is as follows: Henry Soule, Harry Gerber, Otto Sanderhoff, C. F. Brown, P. W. Creaser, Jotham Allen, I. H. McKinney, W. W. Cushman, J. A. Greene, George Odgen, Jas. E. Mitchell and J. W. Blakely.

This committee will meet Thursday night for the laying of the plans for their work, and will report the result of their investigation next Tuesday night at the city hall at a meeting of the business men.

The plan Mr. Appleby suggested, seems to be the only plan for salvation. He states he has seen it worked in Saginaw very successfully. There must be a head to the operations. Individual parties will help a lot, but the demand is so great the organization of a corporation seems the only plan whereby the congestion can be relieved. Then, a public corporation could and would give the working man a longer and better showing and would be able to secure finance enough to swing a much larger and more permanent corporation than individual parties.

## LOCAL HIGH WINS AT TRACK MEET

Show Good Material at Meet at Davis Field Last Saturday.

DEFEAT GREENVILLE AT BALL

Won Track Meet From Saginaw High School—Davis Scores Most Points

Last Saturday the local team had the first opportunity of testing out their track strength against a visiting team. Coach Crisp brought out a well trained bunch of men, and the way they scored up the points against the Arthur Hill boys, meant that there will be a lively scrap at the county meet to keep the home boys down.

At baseball the team showed the same careful coaching and the Greenville boys went home with a defeat of 11 to 2 against them. Highfield pitched a remarkable game, striking out fifteen men, and only allowing four hits.

Following is the score sheet of the track events of the Saturday meet:

One mile run—1st, Walker; 2nd, Wilkes; 3rd, Hayward. Time: 5:18.  
Running high—1st, Spaulding and Monroe, tied; 3rd, Emory. Height 5 ft. 8 in.  
Two hundred and twenty-eight low hurdles—1st, Davis; 2nd, Spaulding; 3rd, Jerome. Time: 27:2.  
Running broad—1st, Kress; 2nd, Emory; 3rd, Spaulding. Distance 19 ft. 5 in.

Four hundred forty yard dash—1st, Wheaton; 2nd, Derfner; 3rd, Emmons. Time: 58:2.  
One hundred and twenty yard high hurdles—1st, Jerome; 2nd, Spaulding; 3rd, Kress. Time: 20 flat.

Discus—1st, Cash; 2nd, Emory; 3rd, Spaulding. Distance 80 ft. 11 1/2 in.

One hundred yard dash—1st, Davis; 2nd, Howe; 3rd, Spaulding. Time: 19:3.

Shot put—1st, Spaulding; 2nd, Sartor; 3rd, Emory. Distance 37 ft. 6 in.

Two hundred and twenty yard dash—1st, Davis; 2nd, Howe; 3rd, Kossley. Time: 24:2.

One-half mile run—1st, Derfner; 2nd, Walker; 3rd, Wilkes.

Pole vault—1st, Stevens; 2nd, Emory; 3rd, Spaulding. Height 8 ft. 10 in.

The relay race was also won by the local school, they entering Howe, Davis, Wheaton, and Kress. Among the high point winners Spaulding stood first, scoring 19 points for the Saginaw school. Davis made the high score for the local school, making 16 1/2 points. The total points score stood 75 to 38 with Alma in the lead.

## WRECK ON P. M.

Three Cars Badly Smashed and Twelve Off Track

As the local freight from the west was rounding the curve just north of the city, about 7:30 Thursday morning, in some manner the rail gave way and dived four cars and badly smashing three of them and derailed about twelve others. The engine was also off the track. The rails for over forty rods were torn loose from the ties, and where the cars were dived the entire road bed was ripped up for several rods.

It is doubtful if the conditions can be restored to normal for several days.

## FIND OLD PAPERS

Workmen remodeling the Dr. Thornburgh property on South State street, collected from the walls several scraps of papers, one bearing the announcement of a farewell donation to Rev. Theodore Nelson at VanBuskirk's hotel, and bears the date of 1870. The other is an advertisement of M. Polasky, announcing the arrival of a stock of winter goods.

## DIES AT ELWELL

Colvin Olmstead died at his home in Elwell suddenly, Wednesday afternoon, about one o'clock. The deceased was living with his son, Ralph, and no one was in the house at the time of his death, which is supposed to have been caused by a stroke of paralysis.

## FORMER ALMA MAN

Rev. E. A. Thompson, a former well known Alma college student, has accepted the call to the pastorate of a church at Greeley, a college town in Colorado. Rev. Thompson was recently tendered the pastorate of the largest Presbyterian church in Grand Rapids, but declined the offer.

## MORE WINTER

Someone who was up in the wee sma' hours of the night, Tuesday, said it snowed. Well no one could doubt their word. The thermometer threatened to knock out the bottom of the glass and every one began to worry about another supply of coal.

## ANOTHER CONTEST

High School Domestic Science Class Will Bake Cakes

The third of the series of three contests will be held at the gas office, Friday afternoon. These popular contests have been put on by the domestic science class of the high school. The Friday contest will enter girls of the 8B division.

The judges are Miss Olive Smith, Mrs. Chas. Rhodes and Miss Mae Jones. After the baking, the cakes will be placed on sale and the proceeds go to the improvement of the domestic science equipment of the school.

The winners of the baking powder biscuit, last Friday, were Miss Marie Davidson, first; Louise Smith, second; and Pauline Broadhead, third.

## NEW HOUSES

Alma needs 300 new houses to care for its people and those who are needed at the factories. It is certainly encouraging to see so many going up at the present time there are 40 houses under construction and 25 more that will be started soon. This does not count those contemplated on the new Fairview addition.

## "FAIRVIEW" NEW ADDITION AT NORTH END OF CITY

Open Office at Head of River Street and Will Sell Lots on Easy Payments

The company of Mt. Pleasant gentlemen who purchased the L. C. Wright 40 acres north of Alma and are planning it as Fairview addition were in Alma Monday and purchased the eight acre farm on Rockingham addition south of the Wm. Strong property. They inform the writer that they propose to put the lots on the market at a reasonable price with a small payment down and a monthly payment for the balance. They also expect to build several medium priced houses to sell on easy terms. One of their firm will commence as soon as possible the construction of six houses. Their office will be at the head of River street and Mr. Johnson who will have charge will be on the ground in a few days. The gentlemen in the deal are all prominent Mt. Pleasant business men which assures you a fair proposition on their part and people welcome them to Alma and wish them success in their new venture.

## THE DRIVING PARK

Some weeks ago the Record made mention of the Alma Driving Club renting a portion of the Wells farm north of Alma with the intention of building a one-half mile track. The formation of a stock company has been started which will probably be capitalized at \$2000 with \$1000 paid in. Already \$1000 of the stock has been subscribed and an organization will be perfected in a few days. Work has already begun, the track is laid out and plowed and lumber is on the ground for a training barn, the work on the bleachers and the front fence will be started soon.

## BABY INJURED FROM FALL

Arthur, the little four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Hudson, residing east of the city, tumbled from his high chair Wednesday morning and cut open his chin to the bone, requiring aid to draw the edges of the cut together.

## "FARMER BILL" ENDICOTT AGAIN TO RACE IN DETROIT

Will Drive Special Constructed Sweeney Racer at Michigan State Fair

"Farmer Bill" Endicott will make another attempt to set a new world's 100-mile record for a mile dirt track on Decoration Day in connection with the two day auto race meet at the Michigan State Fair grounds, in Detroit, May 28th and May 30th. Endicott will drive a Sweeney special, one of the fastest cars now racing and built by the Sweeney Auto school, of Kansas City, especially for Endicott.

A year ago when Endicott raced on the state fair track and was miles and minutes ahead of the world's record he blew a tire and tore a great hole in the fence when his car left the track. He was uninjured by the accident but his car was wrecked. This year Endicott hopes for a better break in luck and has promised G. W. Dickinson, secretary-manager of the fair a new mark for the century.

Endicott will attempt to set this record and incidentally cut in on a big slice of the \$10,000 in cash offered the drivers for the two days of racing, May 28th and 30th. Eight events will be run off each day insuring the fans a full afternoon of sport. On Decoration Day the final heat for the Tri-City Championship of 100 miles will be run, and it is in this event that Endicott plans to smash all previous marks up to that distance. The first heat was run in Columbus, the second in Cleveland and the third is set for Detroit.

## COLLEGE TEAM SLIDING BACK

Good Material in Team But Are Unable to Work Together.

LOSE TWO GAMES LAST WEEK

Suffer Round Trimming From Olivet Friday and Albion Saturday

The college team are having the same luck with their baseball season as with the recent plunge in basketball. A good start, win all the time, next, lose and lose all the time.

Olivet settled the dust around their graves to the tune of 3 to 5, last Friday, and on Saturday the Albion boys got tired of being walloped by the Alma team and trimmed the home soldiers by a score of 9 to 3. The team has good material, and some one made E. Z. Marks favorite remark that "something ought to be done." Following is the summary of the games:

Alma	AB	H	PO	O
Hebert, 3rd.....	5	2	1	1
French, 1st & p.....	3	0	9	0
Spinney, 2nd.....	4	1	0	3
Johnston, p & 1st.....	4	2	1	1
Fitch, c.....	3	0	8	1
Depew, rf.....	3	0	1	0
Ardis, lf.....	3	0	3	0
Peters, ss.....	4	0	0	1
Robinson, m.....	4	1	1	0
Totals.....	33	6	24	7

Olivet	AB	H	PO	A
Watson, lf.....	3	1	2	0
Miller, c.....	4	2	15	0
Reilly, 1st.....	4	1	5	0
Myers, 3rd.....	4	1	2	2
Cunningham, m.....	4	0	0	0
Johnson, lf.....	4	0	1	0
Hollister, ss.....	2	0	1	0
Wendt, 2nd.....	3	1	2	2
Loomis, p.....	3	1	0	1
Totals.....	32	6	27	5

Innings.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Alma.....	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
Olivet.....	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0

Runs—Hebert 2, French 3, Watson 2, Miller, Reilly, Loomis 5.  
Errors—Spinney 2, Depew 3, Myers 2, Miller, Hollister 4.  
Two base hits—Johnston 2, Spinney, Miller, Myers.  
Three base hits—Reilly.  
Home run—Watson.  
Struckout by Johnston 5, by French 2, Loomis 13.

Base on balls—off Johnston 1, off Loomis 2.  
Hits off Johnston 6 in seven innings (none out in eighth), French 0 in one inning.

Umpire—Blake.

Alma	AB	H	O	A
Hebert, 3rd.....	4	1	1	0
French, p.....	3	2	5	3
Depew, r.....	4	1	0	1
Johnston, 1st.....	4	2	8	1
Fitch, c.....	3	1	7	1
Spinney, 2nd.....	4	0	0	3
Peters, ss.....	4	0	0	1
Gies, cf.....	3	1	1	0
Ardis, lf.....	3	0	2	0
Totals.....	32	8	24	10

Albion	AB	H	O	A
Pasco, rf.....	4	2	1	0
Young, m.....	4	2	5	0
Thomas, s.....	4	1	3	5
Peckham, 3rd.....	2	0	3	1
Crosstwaite lf.....	4	2	2	0
Boyd, lb.....	3	1	7	1
Lambert, c.....	3	1	5	2
Slout, 2b.....	3	1	1	2
Holtz, p.....	3	0	0	3
Totals.....	30	10	27	14

Score by innings:  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
Alma.....0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 3  
Albion.....0 2 0 0 0 2 3 2 0 9

Runs—French, Fitch, Gies, 3, Pasco 2, Young, Thomas, Crosstwaite 2, Boyd 2, Lambert 9.

Errors—Spinney, Peters, Ardis, Lambert, Slout 2.

Two base hit—French, Gies, Young. Three base hits—Lambert, Crosstwaite, French.

Safe hits—Off French, 7 in 6 1/3 innings; off Depew, 3 in 1 2/3 innings.

Sacrifice hits—Young, Peckham, Slout.

Sacrifice fly—Peckham.

Stolen bases—Fitch, Gies, Hebert, Crosstwaite, Boyd, Thomas.

Double plays—Thomas to Peckham. Bases on balls—off Holtz, 3; off French, 3; off Depew, 1. Struck out—By Holtz, 5; by French, 4; by Depew, 1. Left on bases—Albion, 6; Alma, 5. First base on errors—Albion, 1; Alma, 1. Passed balls—Fitch, Lambert 3. Time—1:50. Umpire—Brannick of Jackson.

## SPRINGS SURPRISE

Harold Raycraft and Mable Billisy Steal March and Marry at St. Louis

Some people have the capacity of doing things and letting no one know about it and some others of us get caught at everything we do. Anyway Harold Raycraft and Miss Mable Billisy, by planned a quiet little affair, last Wednesday and made a trip to St. Louis where a pretty little ceremony was performed by the Rev. Ford of the M. E. church, that made them partners for life.

The young couple are both popular Alma people. Mr. Raycraft is employed at the Brunner drug store. He graduated from the local high school in 1913. They are at present residing at 324 Park avenue.

## BOOSTERS MEET

The Boosters Smoker at the City Hall last Thursday was a success socially and in a business way but as to attendance it was a frost, out of over 60 members less than one third were present, which is not very encouraging for a few who are trying to do something for Alma. After the business was transacted cards were played and at 10:30 Miner & Son served a buffet lunch. Those in attendance spent a very pleasant and profitable evening.

## DEMOCRATS MEET IN CONVENTION AT ITHACA

Delegates Elected for the State Convention and Wilson Endorsed

The Democratic County convention for the purpose of selecting delegates to the state convention from this county was held at Ithaca, Wednesday, 10th, 1916.

The convention was called to order by Thos. Garlock, secretary of the county committee, after the call Archie McCall was called the chair as temporary chairman and M. E. Hull as secretary. James K. Wright and R. M. Palmer was appointed as tellers.

The chair appointed the following committees: Permanent organization and order of business, Arthur Stetzer, Joseph Foster and C. L. Richards; Credentials, Jesse Hodge, David Hull and W. O. Sullivan. Resolutions, J. H. Smith, DeWitt Vought, Perry Barnaby, W. D. Tucker and F. W. Hooper.

The following resolutions were presented and adopted.

"The Democrats of Gratiot county in convention assembled, express our hearty approval of the present democratic administration in its general work in the interest of the American people. Our admirable President Woodrow Wilson, is entitled to great commendation for his conduct of the affairs of this country in its most trying time in its history.

The work of congress also has been such as too call for our hearty approval, and shows conclusively that the voters of the United States have made no mistake in putting and keeping the great interests of the country in the hands of the grand old party of Jefferson, Jackson and Wilson.

The administration of Gov. W. N. Ferris, considering the handicap of an opposition legislature, is worthy of hearty commendation, and is hereby given a generous mead of praise and approval.

In the matter of great importance now before the American people, that of preparedness, so-called, this convention places itself on record as favoring such a reasonable preparedness as will prove a guarantee for adequate defense in case of attack of any quarter, but a preparedness that calls for a system of militarism, so-called, is repugnant to our views as a national policy.

The following were elected to attend the state convention at Lansing, James K. Wright, chairman, C. M. Brown, Jesse Hodge, DeWitt Vought, J. L. Smith, F. L. Convis, John Berry, Thos. Garlock, Robert Burns, J. H. Smith, William Rogers, Arthur Stetzer, Newton Burns, O. L. Richard, Clarence Hopkins, and I. P. Taylor.

J. H. Smith of Ithaca was elected as chairman of the county committee.

## NOTICE

I wish to call attention to auto drivers that the ordinance relative to turning in center of block must be enforced this is between Gratiot and Prospect streets on Superior, also relative to cutouts and dimmers. You will save yourself trouble by observing my request.

William Rogers City Marshal

## CITY DIRECTORY

If you have changed your residence of late, give us your new address for the city directory. We want everybody in the city and by your help can make it correct. Leave your orders for directories.

## MARRY AT ITHACA

Mr. John Enterline and Miss Ruth Wyeth were quietly married at Ithaca, last Wednesday, by Judge Lee Potts. The couple will reside on the Enterline farm in Sumner township.

## POSTOFFICE BILL BEFORE CONGRESS

Postmaster General Burleson is Strongly Backing Proposition.

EXPECT STRONG OPPOSITION

Plan One-Unit Postoffice in County and Others to be Sub-Stations

Should a certain piece of legislation that is pending before congress be enacted into law, Gratiot county would have but one postmaster. This condition would also become operative in all counties in the country.

That such legislation is ever contemplated will be news to most persons, as it has attracted virtually no attention. Under its sweeping provisions 50,000 postmaster ships throughout the country would be abolished. The officers themselves would not be wiped out, but after the postmaster ships have been abolished the offices would be open to the appointment of superintendents. Postmaster General Burleson is openly and earnestly backing the legislation and doing all he can to procure its passage.

The legislation proposes a reorganization of the postal savings system. The house committee on postoffice and post roads refused to recommend it and the bill as it passed the house did not contain the provision. It was incorporated in the senate bill, however, and is now one of the amendments in dispute between the house and senate conferences. The provision which would go far toward uprooting the established postal service reads as follows:

"Hereafter, the postmaster general may establish under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, one or more branch offices, non-accounting for the transaction of any postoffice business which may be required for the convenience of the public." In a statement before the house committee explaining the operation of the proposed legislation first assistant postmaster general states:

"By making the county the unit and subsidiary to the main office situated at the county seat, the number of accounting offices would be reduced from 56,000 to 3,000